

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-26 and 28-38 are pending. Claims 1, 15 and 22 have been amended. Claims 2-4, 7, 9-14, 16-21, 23-26 and 30-35 are original. Claims 6, 8, 28-29 and 36-38 are previously presented. Claims 5 and 27 are cancelled. No new matter has been introduced by the amendment.

1. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-4, 6-15, 18-26 and 28-38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Abileah (U.S. Pat. No. 5,262,880) in view of An et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,392,724). Claims 17 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Abileah in view of An and in further view of Kanatsu et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,867,825). The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections based on the following remarks.

The Examiner has conceded that Abileah fails to explicitly disclose a unitary case supporting the plurality of fluorescent lamps, the heat protecting plate and the reflecting plate, wherein the heat protection plate is disposed in the case (Office Action, page 3). The Examiner tries to overcome this deficiency by asserting that An teaches a case supporting the light source elements in which a heat protecting plate (element 145 and/or 146) is disposed in the case (Office Action, page 3). An, however, discloses an LCD module in which the unitary case 130 is separated from the heat protecting plate 145 and/or 146 by the fixing unit 170 and the fastener 174 (see Figs. 4 and 6; column 6, lines 9-23). In other words, there is no apparent way that the heat protecting plate could contact the case. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that An does not teach or suggest to modify the LCD device as disclosed in Abileah such that the LCD device would include a unitary case and the heat protecting plate would contact the case.

In contrast, the LCD device having a direct-type backlight recited in amended independent claims 1, 15 and 22 comprises a unitary case supporting the plurality of fluorescent lamps and the heat protection plate (the scattering means and the light reflecting means), wherein the heat protection plate (at least one of the scattering means and the light reflecting means) contacts the case. Support for the amended independent claims 1, 15 and 22 can be found in the Applicant's specification, for example, in Figures 3 and 4.

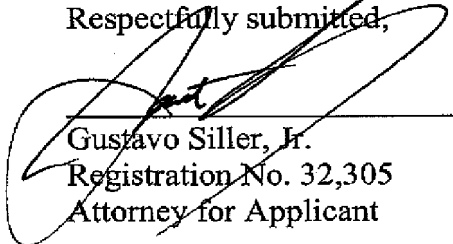
In view of the above remarks and amendments, the Applicant respectfully submits that Abileah in view of An does not teach or suggest all the limitations as recited in amended independent claims 1, 15 and 22, and thus a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established (see MPEP 2143). Accordingly, the rejections against amended independent claims 1, 15 and 22, and thus the rejections against claims 2-4, 6-14, 16-21, 23-26 and 28-38, which all depend from amended independent claims 1, 15 and 22, have been overcome and should be withdrawn.

2. Conclusion

Based on the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance. The examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney to expedite allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,



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